DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 414 510 CE 075 499

AUTHOR	Sapin, Connie; Bloem, Pat; Padak, Nancy
TITLE	Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Part Three.
INSTITUTION	Kent State Univ., OH. Ohio Literacy Resource Center.
SPONS AGENCY	National Inst. for Literacy, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	1997-11-00
NOTE	93p.; For part one, see ED 381 672. For part two, see CE 071 922.
PUB TYPE	Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Basic Education; Annotated Bibliographies; *Childrens Literature; High School Equivalency Programs; *Reading Instruction; *Reading Materials; *Teaching Methods
IDENTIFIERS	General Educational Development Tests

ABSTRACT

This supplement to an annotated bibliography describes nearly 100 books that are appropriate for use with adult learners. Some of the titles in this supplement are books best used for independent reading, but most have strong instructional ties. The supplement contains many books that can be useful in General Educational Development (GED) instruction, even for learners whose achievement may be at pre-GED levels. Each one-page summary lists bibliographical information, including ordering information, a brief summary, and themes related to the book and a GED descriptor, if appropriate. A "teaching ideas" section on each page offers general instructional suggestions, writing or discussion topics, and, in some instances, related titles. This supplement also includes a "Thematic Collections Index" for all three parts of the "Recommended Trade Books" series. Books chosen for this publication have been read by at least three readers and are rated by "W" (whole-hearted approval) or "G" (guidance). (KC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 414 510

RECOMMENDED TRADE BOOKS FOR ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS: PART THREE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CE 075 494

Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Part Three

This supplement to Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions describes nearly 100 books that are appropriate for use with adult learners. Some of the titles in the supplement are books best used for independent reading, but most have strong instructional ties. This supplement contains many books that can be useful in GED instruction, even for learners whose achievement may be at pre-GED levels.

The OLRC Reading Group follows a painstaking process in order to choose books well. Each book is read by at least three people. We consider the art work and the texts. We discuss the point of view--does it invite readers in?--and we think about opportunities for conversation, writing, and instruction. Then we rate the books with either a W, for whole-hearted approval, or a G for guidance, which alerts the teacher to the fact that s/he may want to provide background information or handle the book in a special way.

Each page lists bibliographical information, including the ISBN numbers you will need if you decide to purchase the book. (Remember that Book Wholesalers, Inc. sells these books at 40% off list price; contact the OLRC for details.) Each page also provides a brief summary and lists themes related to the book and a GED descriptor, if appropriate. The "Teaching Ideas" section of each page offers general instructional suggestions, writing or discussion topics, and sometimes related titles.

We have organized related titles from all three supplements to Recommended Trade Books into a "Thematic Collections Index," which is also included with this supplement. Most themes are represented by books that range from very easy to fairly challenging. We believe that this index will facilitate instructional planning.

Parts I, II, and III of Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions are available online at **http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Resc/Trade/tradebk.htm.** Note that the address is case-sensitive. The online version of Trade Books can be searched for theme by key words. The search site can be reached directly at **http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/trade/tbsearch.cfm**.

We hope that this bibliography will provide you with a good first step toward finding interesting, satisfying books to use in your programs. Still, we wish to underscore the importance of choosing books carefully. Before using these books with your students, read them yourselves. Think about your students and their interests. The match between book and reader is crucial.

Connie Sapin
Pat Bloem
Nancy Padak

November, 1997

THE OHIO LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER IS LOCATED AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
414 WHITE HALL, P.O. BOX 5190, KENT, OH 44242-0001
1-800-765-2897 OR 330-672-2007 EMAIL ADDRESS: olrc@literacy.kent.edu
Web site: literacy.kent.edu

Author : **Adler, D.** Illustrator : Bloom, L.

Title : **One Yellow Daffodil: A Hanukkah Story** Date : 1995

Publisher : Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace & Co. City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-200537-4

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban : Y
GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : cultural diversity, religion, WWII, Holocaust, kindness, Hanukkah, wars, urban living

Summary : Morris Kaplan, a Holocaust survivor, owns a flower shop that two children visit each Friday to buy Sabbath flowers. The children are surprised to learn that their friend Morris hasn't celebrated Hanukkah since his childhood. They insist that he join their family, which he reluctantly does. The family's kindness and generosity helps Morris to embrace the traditional celebrations of his childhood again and to remember.

Teaching Ideas : This is a sweet, sad story that rings true. The illustrations are exquisite. It could go in text sets about WWII, life in the city, holidays. The teacher could use newspaper clippings about "revisonists" along with several books about the Holocaust to lead explorations of basic questions about the study of history: How do we know what really happened in the past? How can we ascertain peoples' biases? The book can also be used to teach about Judaism, as it contains some vocabulary and symbolism that is part of the Jewish faith.

Author : **Anno, M.** Illustrator : Kobo, K.

Title : **Anno's Magic Seeds** Date : 1995

Publisher : Philomel Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22538-2

Type : fiction, legends & tales

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : math

Themes : math, work, fable

Summary : A wizard gives Jack magic seeds, which he cultivates, and he reaps ever increasing harvests until a storm forces him to begin all over again. The reader is encouraged to predict Jack's progress.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers might follow the story with other number progression problems. Parents may want to make a change in the early numbers eaten or planted for children to predict what will happen. Teachers might want to use this book with Jack and the Beanstalk, African fables, etc. in which the characters receive magical help from someone.

Author : **Banyai, I.**

Illustrator : Banyai, I.

Title : **Re-Zoom**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Viking

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-670-86392-0

Type : easy reading

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : none

Themes : history, geography

Summary : This entertaining wordless picture book has illustrations that zoom in and out from previous illustrations. Readers will enjoy identifying familiar people, places, and times in history as they inspect these remarkable illustrations.

Teaching Ideas : The book lends itself to prediction, once readers get the hang of it. Oral discussions of illustrations--what readers see, what these things are (or might be)--would be fun for all and particularly beneficial for ESL learners. Learners could also try to write the story of the book. Those with artistic talent might enjoy making their own "zoom" books.

Author : **Beatty, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Jayhawker** Date : 1991

Publisher : Beech Tree City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-688-14422-5 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : U.S. history, Civil War, slavery, abolitionists, war, child heroes, coming of age, 19th century

Summary : With the U.S. on the verge of civil war, Elijah Tully and his father ride out of Kansas as Jayhawkers, guerrilla fighters against slavery. After his father is killed, Lije goes undercover among the proslavery bushwhackers to help the abolitionists and to avenge his father's death.

Teaching Ideas : Lots of the characters and events in the book are real, so this would be a good complement to the study of history or the Civil War in a GED class. The book breaks easily into shorter sections, which may be helpful for instructional planning. Lije/Red's character is well drawn; learners may wish to focus on how/what he learned as he aged, especially about the complexities of the slavery conflict. A discussion or writing about people's varying motives for being jayhawkers or bushwhackers will also be interesting. The book could be paired with other Civil War era books with strong characters (e.g., Hamilton's Anthony Burns, Polacco's Pink and Say) to provide a human perspective on this important time in U.S. history.

Author : **Besson, J.L.** Illustrator : Besson, J.L.

Title : **October 45** Date : 1995

Publisher : Harcourt Brace & Co. City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-200955-8

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : WWII, Europe, history, war

Summary : Subtitled "Childhood Memories of the War," this book tells the author's observations of life from September, 1939, when France and England enter the war against Germany, through October, 1945, when Besson goes back to school in peace for the first time.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read and excerpt from this book. Instruction might focus on point of view, using the author's excerpt about D-Day along with several others. Teachers will want to handle the author's treatment of Jews and their plight very carefully. Some members of the Reading Group were initially offended by some text, but this too could spark interesting discussions or response journal entries about different perspectives, including the perspectives of those neither Jewish nor directly involved in the war.

Author : **Bradby, M.** Illustrator : Soentpiet, C.K.

Title : **More Than Anything Else** Date : 1995

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-09464-2

Type : easy reading, historical fiction, biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : 19th century U.S. history, biography, African American heroes, literacy, Appalachia

Summary : Few people around young Booker T. Washington are able to read. But Booker, age 9, finds a chance and takes it. This biography, which also shows life in post-Civil War West Virginia, is full of eloquent language and dramatic, lantern-lit paintings.

Teaching Ideas : Natural extensions from this book might include explorations of Booker T. Washington's adult life. This book might also be paired with Paulsen's Night John, and teachers and students may want to discuss the role of literacy within society. Young Booker's character is well developed, so character study is another possibility. The book would also work well as part of a text set about hopes, dreams, expectations, and their achievement.

Author : **Brandenburg, J.**

Illustrator : Brandenburg, J. (photographs)

Title : **An American Safari**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Walker and Co.

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8027-8319-8

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE :

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : photography, prairie, wildlife, art, ecology, ecosystems, nature, geography, outdoors

Summary : Award-winning wildlife photographer Jim Brandenburg shows and tells the story of the American prairies, which once swept for thousands of miles but are now an endangered ecological treasure. The stunning photographs and unforgettable written memories inspire readers to respect this uniquely American landscape.

Teaching Ideas : Students could use maps to find areas Brandenburg refers to; they could also write for more information to the organizations listed in the appendix. Possible text sets include prairies, nature, cameras/photography, westward expansion. The story of Brandenburg's success as a photographer could be part of a careers unit. Information about controlled fires could be used with newspaper or magazine accounts of the same.

Author : **Cherry, L.** Illustrator : Cherry, L.

Title : **A River Ran Wild** Date : 1992

Publisher : Harcourt Brace & Co. City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-200542-0

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies, science

Themes : social issues, environment, U.S. history, ecology

Summary : This book recounts the history of the Nashua River in Massachusetts and New Hampshire life from idyllic Algonquin Indian times to industrial pollution to a restored river due to the efforts of Marion Stoddart who coordinated a citizen campaign. The text pages have borders of historical objects and wildlife in addition to full-page illustrations.

Teaching Ideas : If there is a local body of water, a teacher could develop a class project researching the history of the river or lake that includes reading, writing, science and math. This book could be used with Levine's Pearl Moskowitz's Last Stand to explore the theme of what one person can do to bring about change.

Author : **Climo, S.** Illustrator : Koshkin, A.

Title : **Atalanta's Race, A Greek Myth** Date : 1995

Publisher : Clarion Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-67322-4

Type : legends & tales

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : none

Themes : mythology, ancient Greece, sports, women

Summary : This retelling of an ancient Greek myth describes Atalanta, abandoned by her royal father who wanted a son. Atalanta is raised by a woodsman and becomes a great hunter and athlete; the latter is tested in a race when the gods intervene.

Teaching Ideas : We recommend that teachers introduce this book carefully, so that learners understand the relevance of myths and legends in the ABE classroom. The pictures are excellent and can be used for prediction or storytelling. DR-TA (or DL-TA) and response activities would also be good choices. Teachers may wish to focus on the archetypal images throughout the story as well. This book would work well in units about ancient Greece, myths and legends, sports, or strong females.

Author : **Coman, C.** Illustrator :

Title : **What Jamie Saw** Date : 1995

Publisher : Front Street City : Arden, NC

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-886910-02-2

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, social issues, child abuse, family violence, problem solving

Summary : The power and lyricism of this remarkable book is evident in the opening sentence. "When Jamie saw him throw the baby, saw Van throw the little baby, saw Van throw his little sister Nin, when Jamie saw Van throw his baby sister Nin, then they moved." Jamie, Nin, and their mother move to a friend's trailer and try to reestablish their lives as individuals and as a family.

Teaching Ideas : This would be an excellent core novel for units related to any of the themes. Students might make entries in response journals at ends of chapters. The characters are well developed, so character sketches or other forms of character study would work well, especially for Jamie, his mother, his teacher, and Earl. Students who have read Wolf's Make Lemonade might compare Jamie and LaVaughn or the three mothers in the books.

Author : **Conrad, P.** Illustrator : Selznick, B.

Title : **Our House** Date : 1995

Publisher : Scholastic, Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-46523-6

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : family stories, communities and change, photography, keeping journals

Summary : Based on her research and interviews, the author tells fictional stories of families in Levittown-one chapter for each decade since the 1940's when the community was developed. The stories are told from a child's point of view but involve the family unit.

Teaching Ideas : The stories lend themselves to many instructional activities: DR-TA, Bleich's Heuristic, Save the Last Word for Me, Agree/Disagree. Family history projects could be initiated with a chapter. The individual chapters about photography and keeping journals seem especially appropriate to recording family history.

Author : **Curtis, C.P.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963** Date : 1995

Publisher : Delacorte Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-32175-9

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban : Y
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : coming-of-age, Civil Rights Movement, families, 1960s, 20th century, African-American

Summary : The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family from Flint, Michigan are drastically changed after a trip to Alabama in 1963. This is a powerful book, sometimes powerfully funny and sometimes powerfully touching.

Teaching Ideas : This would make a fine "centerpiece" book for study of the Civil Rights Movement. Students are sure to respond emotionally. Kenny's character matures over the course of the novel, so a focus on character development might also work well. Teachers can read the book aloud to learners, perhaps a chapter per session (and especially the beginning chapters, which are funny). Students may want to trace the family's journey south, using maps. After the incident in Birmingham, student response activities, either via writing or via discussion, would be very effective. The especially dramatic chapters (i. e., 13 through the end) would be good choices for DR-TAs or DL-TAs.

Author : **Cushman, K.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Midwife's Apprentice** Date : 1995

Publisher : Clarion Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-69229-6

Type : fiction, historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science, social studies

Themes : self esteem, overcoming adversity, survival, history, world history, women

Summary : This award-winning novel, set in 14th century England, tells the story of Brat/Beetle/Alyce, a "homeless waif who became the midwife's apprentice-a person with a name and a place in the world" (book jacket).

Teaching Ideas : Teachers might want to read this novel aloud or have students (level 2 or beyond) read one chapter a day. Beetle/Alyce's character is very well developed, so a character sketch would be a good choice. Lots of "then and now" discussion/writing is also possible: a) put yourself in Alyce's place. What would the story be if told in present time? b) How did the midwife and Alyce assist childbirth with medicine, psychology, magic? Repeat the categories for today. c) herbal remedies are used in the book. How are they used today? Students might also be interested in other aspects of life in 14th century England--the monarchy, literacy practices, other occupations described in the book (miller, baker, scholar, innkeeper, farmers). Finally, teachers may wish to focus on Alyce's gradual recovery/healing from years of neglect and general abuse. Students could trace the stages of Alyce's development and decide if her progress is realistic.

Author : **Dean, J.** Illustrator :

Title : **A Year on Monhegan Island** Date : 1995

Publisher : Ticknor & Fields Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-66476-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural : Y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : communities, island life, economics, geography, government

Summary : Photojournalist Julia Dean chronicles a year in the life of residents of Monhegan Island, a small island off the east coast of Maine. We learn about their culture, government, and economy, as well as a bit about part-time resident Jamie Wyeth.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be paired with fiction set at the seashore, like MacLachlan's Baby or McCloskey's Time of Wonder. Students could compare and contrast settings and perhaps draw some conclusions about this type of community. Students could also study the stunning photographs, perhaps sharing responses to their favorites either through discussion or in writing. Information about the island's economy could provide focus for economics or math. Geography ties are also possible. Students could follow up on the Wyeth connection by researching the biographies of these famous U.S. painters and their work.

Author : **Dewey, J.O.**

Illustrator : Dewey, J.O.

Title : **Animal Architecture**

Date : 1991

Publisher : Orchard Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-05930-8

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : living creatures, nature

Summary : The author describes the shelters created by a wide variety of creatures from spiders to bats, from honeybees to beavers. The text is simple but some students may need help with technical vocabulary for which there is no glossary.

Teaching Ideas : Sections on the specific creatures could be excerpted. The book could be used with Kitchen's book, And So They Build.

Author : **Fisher, L.E.**

Illustrator : . Fisher, L.E.

Title : **Gutenberg**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Macmillan Publishing Co.

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-735238-2

Type : biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : European 15th century history, Germany, biography, reading and literacy, inventions, world history

Summary : This black and white picture book tells the story of Johann Gutenberg, creator of the printing press. It includes a map, time line, and afterword.

Teaching Ideas : This book may especially appeal to adult students because Gutenberg clearly struggled throughout much of his life. The book would work well in a unit on biography (perhaps the class could compare and contrast authors' styles and choices of information to include) or a unit on inventions. Students might discuss or write about these topics: the need for/value of reading; grammar as the "foundation of learning"; impact of important inventions on society (perhaps compare with computers). Teachers may want to bring in other Fisher books, since he has a very distinctive style.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Fleischman, P.** Illustrator : Beddows, E.

Title : **Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices** Date : 1988

Publisher : Harper Trophy City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-446093-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : science, insects, living creatures

Summary : These poems that celebrate the insect world were written to be read aloud by two voices, sometimes alternating, sometimes simultaneous.

Teaching Ideas : Beginning readers or ESL students may enjoy performing these poems as a fluency activity. Parents and children can perform the poems in family literacy settings. In either event, teachers should read the poems to and with learners several times so that student performances will not cause embarrassment. Individual poems can be excerpted for use in science. Many poems are full of interesting, powerful verbs; students might enjoy speculating about the poet's rationale for their choice. Line and stanza decisions, as well as decisions about how and where to create the two "parts," may also provoke discussion or writing. Students might enjoy trying to develop a "poem for two voices" out of another favorite poem.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Fleischman, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Bull Run** Date : 1993

Publisher : Harper Trophy City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-440588-5 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : drama, historical fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : Civil War, U.S. history, 19th century, war

Summary : This is a fictional and personal account of the first great battle of the Civil War, as told from the points of view of 16 participants, Northern and Southern, male and female, black and white.

Teaching Ideas : Map studies are possible, as are lots of comparison/contrast activities, such as North v. South, leaders v. "privates," those in the battle v. outsiders. Groups of students might select characters and then study each and retell (through writing or oral interpretation) that character's story. A focus on point of view will also be possible since characters are all reflecting on the same event.

Author : **Fleischman, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Dateline: Troy** Date : 1996

Publisher : Candlewick Press City : Cambridge, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-56402-469-5

Type : legends & tales

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : mythology, literature, world history

Summary : A compelling retelling of the Trojan War story is juxtaposed with newspaper clippings (WWI--Gulf War). The clippings help to develop context for the story. They also reveal powerful parallels between the world of Homer's Iliad and our own.

Teaching Ideas : This book is for GED-level learners, and teachers will probably want to include instructional support activities as well. Students may want to create story maps. Response activities (discussion or writing) might focus on "then and now." Students could 1) select a major character, describe him/her, decide if this type of person is still around; 2) develop a comparison/contrast chart focusing on characteristics of gods/goddesses and humans; 3) prepare a matrix contrasting the Trojans, the Greeks, the deities (e.g., what motivated them? what were their good deeds? the results?); or 4) develop a timeline for the current events or the Trojan War.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Frank, J. (Editor)** Illustrator : Locker, T.

Title : **Snow Toward Evening** Date : 1990

Publisher : Dial Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-0810-6

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : nature, outdoors, science, weather

Summary : In this book 13 poets and the landscape painter Thomas Locker combine to invite us to enjoy nature's splendor through the changing seasons.

Teaching Ideas : Poems might be read aloud while learners examine the gorgeous illustrations. Poems could be excerpted for study of seasons or weather. Poems, illustrations, or both could provide impetus for response-based writing or discussion.

Author : **Giblin, J.C.** Illustrator : Tomes, M.

Title : **Chimney Sweeps** Date : 1982

Publisher : Harper Trophy City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-446061-4 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : industrialization, labor laws, child labor, history, sociology, social issues, work

Summary : From the 12th century to today, here is a look at the folklore and history surrounding the chimney sweep.

Teaching Ideas : Members of the Reading Group wonder if this book contains more than most people want to know about chimney sweeps. Accordingly, the text may best be used excerpted, perhaps as part of study of child labor laws (with Paterson's Lyddie, for example, or Lewis Hines' biography or Voices from the Field). Excerpts (or the entire text) could also be part of a careers unit.

Author : **Giblin, J.C.** Illustrator : Frampton, D.

Title : **When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Smallpox, AIDS** Date : 1995

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-025854-3

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science, social studies

Themes : world history, epidemics, smallpox, AIDS, Black Death, superstition, medicine, science

Summary : This carefully written book contains three parts: a prologue, a five chapter account of the Black Plague, a five chapter account of the causes and effects of smallpox, a seven chapter account of AIDS, and a fascinating conclusion on the failures of antibiotics. The book includes several dramatic prints of woodcuts.

Teaching Ideas : This fascinating account of three different diseases is an attempt to pull together three periods of history and to draw parallels. Teachers of this book have great essay material to work with. Students could write comparison and contrast, cause and effect, or analysis essays. The interdisciplinary content lends itself to a study of politics, health and medicine, geography, science, religion, history, and to work in critical thinking and problem solving strategies.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Giovanni, N.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Shimmy, Shimmy, Shimmy Like My Sister Kate**

Date : 1996

Publisher : Henry Holt & Co.

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8050-3494-3

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban : Y

GED Descriptors : social studies, literature/arts

Themes : African-American history, U.S. history, African-American experience, poetry

Summary : Noted author Nikki Giovanni has selected and comments on poems by some of the greatest African-American writers of this century.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will probably want to use excerpts, perhaps reading aloud to all but GED learners. Giovanni's notes serve to add historical and political context, which adds to interest. Bleich's heuristic and (write and share)2 work well with poetry. Learners may want to write responses reacting to both Giovanni's strong voice and the poems themselves. Several biography projects may also be possible.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Giovanni, N. (editor)** Illustrator :

Title : **Grandmothers** Date : 1994

Publisher : Henry Holt and Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8050-2766-1

Type : essays, poetry, short stories
Rating : G
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : grandparents, multiculturalism, family, traditions, immigration

Summary : In the introduction, the editor, after describing her own strong grandmother, says that grandmothers help us make the transition from childhood to adulthood and "civilize" us. The essays, poems and short stories that follow, introduce us to a wide cultural range of grandmothers depicted by their granddaughters.

Teaching Ideas : Individual excerpted essays would make excellent introductions to essays or descriptive writing. The theme of strong-willed grandmothers could be used to explore family history in journals or discussion.

Author : **Giovanni, N.** Illustrator : Johnson, L.

Title : **Knoxville, Tennessee** Date : 1994

Publisher : Scholastic City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-47074-4

Type : poetry
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : family, reminiscences

Summary : This brief and beautifully illustrated poem celebrates a young child's summer in Knoxville, TN.

Teaching Ideas : Learners could compare the poem with illustrations to the poem without illustrations and reflect on the impact of the illustrations. The very simple text supported by illustrations makes this book an excellent choice for new readers. Choral reading or paired reading would work quite well. Students might write or tell "summer stories" from their own childhoods.

Author : **Goffstein, M.B.** Illustrator :

Title : **Lives of the Artists** Date : 1981

Publisher : Farrar, Straus, Giroux City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-374-34628-3

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts
Themes : art, biography

Summary : These are "unconventional biographies" of five artists: Rembrandt, Guardi, Van Gogh, Bonnard, and Nevelson. Each is accompanied by illustrations of the artist's work.

Teaching Ideas : GED-level students interested in art may enjoy this for independent reading. Instructional uses may include comparing these "unconventional biographies" to more conventional ones and evaluating the worth of each type. Because the author's words resemble poetry, excerpts from the book could be read aloud as well.

Author : **Gray, L.M.** Illustrator : Fiore, P.M.

Title : **Dear Willie Rudd** Date : 1993

Publisher : Simon and Schuster City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-671-79774-3

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : communities, Civil Rights, generations, uses of writing, family

Summary : Miss Elizabeth, thinking 50 years back, remembers Willie Rudd, the African American housekeeper who raised her, her mother, and her grandmother. She writes a letter to the long-dead Willie Rudd in which she explains the past and expresses her feelings.

Teaching Ideas : This gentle book would be a good addition to units about Civil Rights, racism, or generations. It might spark discussion or writing about changing mores, the reasons for "confession," or the power/uses of writing. The general topic of coming to terms with one's past might also be of interest.

Author : **Hamilton, V.** Illustrator : Dillon, L. & Dillon, D.

Title : **Her Stories** Date : 1995

Publisher : The Blue Sky Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-47370-0

Type : legends & tales
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : women's roles, slavery, oral histories, African-American

Summary : The book focuses on stories of females-animal stories, supernatural tales, folktales, and oral histories. It includes an afterword by Virginia Hamilton and an excellent bibliography.

Teaching Ideas : The book could be included in a text set on African American women with Having Our Say(Delany & Delany) and Sorrow's Kitchen(Lyons), with other Virginia Hamilton books: Drylongso, The Bells of Christmas, The People Could Fly, or with similar tales such as Rumpelstiltskin, The Little Mermaid, Native American "trickster" stories, and African folktales. Teachers may want to exerpt individual sections or stories.

Author : **Harness, C.** Illustrator : Harness, C.

Title : **The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal** Date : 1995

Publisher : Macmillan Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-742641-6

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : history of transportation, American history, construction, travel

Summary : After an introduction detailing the need to transport goods back and forth to the settlers in the expanding west, the author takes the reader on the inaugural ride in 1825 that opened the Erie Canal. Illustrations and a time line provide additional information about the construction of the canal.

Teaching Ideas : The schematic diagrams of the topography of upper New York state encourage map work, and the diagrams of how a lock works lend themselves to hands-on experiments in class. Teachers could compare the Erie Canal to the Ohio Canal with a visit to the lock in Peninsula if you live in the area. Teachers could also compare the development and the benefits of the canals to the development of the railroads.

Author : **Hughes, L.** Illustrator : Wawiorka, M.

Title : **The Book of Rhythms** Date : 1982

Publisher : Oxford University Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-19-509856-0

Type : nonfiction, essay

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : music, nature, rhythm, physics, art, poetry

Summary : The chapters are essays by Langston Hughes on different aspects of rhythm. Wynton Marsalis wrote the introduction. In an afterword, Robert O'Meally places the book in the context of Hughes' involvement in the Harlem Renaissance and the McCarthy hearings.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to exerpt separate chapters. Because the chapters are beautifully written essays, they could serve as models for writing projects.

Author : **Hughes, L.** Illustrator : Bearden, R.

Title : **The Block** Date : 1995

Publisher : Viking/ Metropolitan Museum of Art City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-87099-741-6

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : poetry, biography, urban living, African American experience

Summary : This collection of Langston Hughes poems is complemented by the illustrations of Romare Beardon. An introduction by Bill Cosby precedes the collection, and biographies of the poet and artist conclude it.

Teaching Ideas : The poems will be excellent choices for response activities (e.g., Bleich's heuristic) in discussion, writing, or both. Think-pair-share activities might focus on the relationship between the poems and the illustrations. Also interesting might be discussion or writing centered on the text as a whole: What conclusions can we draw about "community" as a concept? about life in the city? are these poems current or dated? In addition, individual poems could become part of text sets about love, death, dreams, immigration, or the African American experience.

Author : **Jam, T. & Wallace, I.** Illustrator : Wallace, I.

Title : **The Year of Fire** Date : 1992

Publisher : Macmillan City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-689-50566-3

Type : historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : life cycles, natural disasters, fire, generations, storytelling, nature, farms, environment

Summary : Grandpa tells grand daughter about the worst fire he has ever known, a fire that happened when the grandfather was a child. (based on a true story)

Teaching Ideas : This book will work well as part of a text set related to any of the themes mentioned above. The intergenerational storytelling aspect may encourage learners to collect, write, or perform their own family stories. Life cycles may be another aspect of interest; students may wish to reflect on the good that can come from what seems at the time to be a tragedy.

Author : **Jennings, T.** Illustrator : various

Title : **Cranes, Dump Trucks, Bulldozers and Other Building Machines** Date : 1992

Publisher : Kingfisher Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 1-85697-865-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : machines, job exploration, physics

Summary : Aspects of simple machines (levers, ramp, pulleys, wheel and axel, and screw) are applied to modern machines used in construction. The illustrations in this reference book include boxes called "Focus On..." and "Test It Out" that include useful extensions of the information.

Teaching Ideas : The principles of simple machines are explained and illustrated very clearly. Teachers may want to use the book as a reference, exerpting sections as needed. The "Test It Out" sections could be carried out in most classrooms.

Author : **Johnson, S.T.** Illustrator : Johnson, S.T.

Title : **Alphabet City** Date : 1995

Publisher : Viking City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-670-85631-2

Type : easy reading
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban : Y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : the alphabet, the city, art, learning to see, wordless, urban living

Summary : Although we recommend alphabet books rarely and only with great cautions that teachers do not allow students to feel childish, this one is very unusual. This book is a collection of paintings of urban scenes, and each one presents the letter of the alphabet.

Teaching Ideas : This book will easily generate discussion and may be a good way to begin a class. Teachers might follow with language experience activities or could encourage students to see their environments in new ways, perhaps by creating their own similar books. It may be a good addition to a text set on the city.

Author : **Jordan, S.** Illustrator :

Title : **Christmas Tree Farm** Date : 1993

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-05499-3

Type : nonfiction, easy reading
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : careers, New England, celebrations, holidays, farm life, Christmas, photodocumentary, religion

Summary : Photos accompany this simple text about the activities that take place throughout the year at a Christmas tree farm in Rhode Island.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be part of a text set about any of the themes mentioned above. Some Reading Group members were concerned that the text is too "childish," so teachers may want to read it with their learners in mind before using it. The last page, which talks about what happens to Christmas trees after the holidays, might spark learners to answer this question about their own communities.

Author : **Kodama, T.** Illustrator : Ando, N.

Title : **Shin's Tricycle** Date : 1992

Publisher : Walker and Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8027-8375-9

Type : historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian : Y

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : WWII, Japan, the atom bomb, children in war, peace, war, world history

Summary : This powerful story tells about the effects of the atom bomb on an ordinary Japanese family, especially on the little boy Shin. It ends with an author's note about the Peace Musuem.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read this aloud but will have to gently invite discussion since it is powerful. Learners may want to reflect in writing. The class may then want to discuss why the author wrote the book so long after the war, discuss current Japanese and American relations, and discuss the effects of war fifty years later.

Author : **Kramer, S.** Illustrator : Duffy, M. Daniel

Title : **Theodoric's Rainbow** Date : 1995

Publisher : W.H. Freeman and Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-7167-6603-5

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : change, superstition, biography, Middle Ages, scientific method, discoveries

Summary : Although Theodoric of Freiberg lived, wrote, and experimented from 1250 AD to 1311 AD, the author has created a fictionalized personal life of this man who studied reflection and refraction of light in a period in which science was in conflict with religion.

Teaching Ideas : The beautifully illustrated book would contribute a human dimension to the scientific method of questions, observations and experimentation. It could be compared with Starry Messenger (Sis) about Gallileo to discuss the impact of political environment on scientific discovery or The Mysterious Rays of Dr. Röntgen (Cherman) to discuss similarities and differences with more modern science. Hands on activities with prisms, mixing paint etc. would extend the content of the book.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Kroll, S** Illustrator : Andreasen,D

Title : **By Dawn's Early Light** Date : 1994

Publisher : Scholastic City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-45054-9

Type : easy reading, historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : War of 1812, U.S. History, star spangled banner, musicians, patriotism, war

Summary : This is an historically accurrate and beautifully illustrated account of how Francis Scott Key came to write "The Star Spangled Banner."

Teaching Ideas : This is a straightforward and interesting telling of an event from US history. It might be part of a text set about wars, US history , or even music. End matter , consisting of an author's note, photographs, maps, a bibliography, an index, and sheet music for "The Star Spangled Banner," offers rich possibilities for learning more and for teaching study skills.

Author : **Krull, K.** Illustrator : Hewitt, K.

Title : **Lives of the Writers: Comedies, Tragedies (and What the Neighbors Thought)** Date : 1994

Publisher : Harcourt Brace & Co. City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-248009-9

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : famous writers, biography, world literature, authors

Summary : Organized chronologically, the book offers short biographies of famous writers with intriguing anecdotes to encourage readers to seek the literary works. The book includes a useful index, a glossary of literary terms, and a short bibliography. Each bibliographical section indicates life span, major works, and "bookmarks" of additional facts.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will find the book a useful reference to introduce or supplement the study of authors like Shakespeare, Jane Austin and Langston Hughes. These short biographies could be extended with other biographies: Diane Stanley's Dickens, Sorrow's Kitchen by M. Lyons (Zora Neal Hurston), and Emily by Bedard (Emily Dickenson).

Author : **Kurelek, W.** Illustrator :

Title : **They Sought A New World** Date : 1985

Publisher : Tundra Books City : Plattsburgh,NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-88776-172-0

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : social studies
Themes : immigration, history, culture

Summary : Through Kurelek's art and Margaret Englehart's additional text, this book tells the story of European immigrants to North America. In addition to describing issues like finding work and shelter, aspects of culture -- religion, maintaining cultural traditions -- are addressed.

Teaching Ideas : The different topics are printed as a 1-2 page "chapters" that could easily be excerpted for other units of study (e.g., work, religion, traditions) or for teaching comprehension strategies. The book could be paired with other accounts of immigration, and students could compare and contrast the immigrant experience for different groups of people at different times. Kurelek's art could be compared to Jacob Lawrence's, since both describe history through their paintings. Teachers will find geography and math links to the census data presented at the end of the book. The text is detailed and sometimes syntactically complex, so teacher support will probably be necessary for all but GED-level learners.

Author : **Lawrence, J. & Lee, R.E.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail** Date : 1970

Publisher : Bantam Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-553-27838-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : drama

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : 19th century U.S. literature & history, transcendentalism, civil disobedience, Fugitive Slave Act, Emerson, Thoreau, authors, philosophy

Summary : This two-act play is about Thoreau's nonviolent acts of civil disobedience and about his waning friendship with Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Teaching Ideas : GED students will need background knowledge about U.S. history and about Emerson and Thoreau in order to comprehend this play. An enterprising teacher, however, would find many ties to 19th century history, to Waldon, to current topics of civil disobedience, or to the Fugitive Slave Act. Students may want to trace history for other examples of nonviolent resistors. Parts of the play would be fun to read aloud with a class that had first studied the text.

Author : **Lee, G.** Illustrator : Lee, G.

Title : **Interesting Athletes: Black American Sports Heroes** Date : 1976

Publisher : Ballantine Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-345-38220-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : biography

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : sports, cartoons, athletes, African American heroes

Summary : This is a collection of annotated newspaper cartoons about African American sports figures. The book is organized into chapters by type of sport. The cartoons originally appeared in newspapers (1930-1980).

Teaching Ideas : This is not a book for instructional use, but it would be a good choice for a leisure reading collection. The visual layout of the cartoons and the all-caps printing might pose problems for some learners, but sports enthusiasts will probably enjoy these snippets of information about many famous athletes.

Author : **Lester, J.** Illustrator :

Title : **Othello, a Novel** Date : 1995

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-41967-6

Type : fiction, drama
Rating : G
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts
Themes : jealousy, racism

Summary : The author retells Shakespeare's play Othello, as a novel, relocating the setting to late 15th century England and changing the racial identities of Iago and Emilia to African. Boldface type calls attention to passages from Shakespeare. Iago manipulates his General Othello into believing that his wife Desdemona is unfaithful.

Teaching Ideas : The book lends itself to comparison with the play. The bold face passages would permit comparison with the originals. Videos of the play might be used. A class might discuss why Lester chose to make the changes he did or debate which is the more effective version. This probably would work best with GED students.

Author : **Lincoln, A.** Illustrator : McCurdy, M.

Title : **The Gettysburg Address** Date : 1995

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-69824-3

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : 19th century, U.S. history, Civil War, speeches, Abraham Lincoln, war

Summary : The book uses Lincoln's actual words which he spoke when consecrating the Pennsylvania cemetery. Each line is illustrated in black and white illustrations. The text includes a foreword and afterword.

Teaching Ideas : Students will probably want to discuss the relationship of text to illustration and will probaby find themselves comprehending the speech, the time, the Civil War, Lincoln, and qualities of great speeches better for having spent time with this book. This is a natural part of any study of U.S. history or of the Civil War.

Author : **Lyons, M.** Illustrator :

Title : **Stitching Stars: The Story Quilts of Harriet Powers** Date : 1993

Publisher : Charles Scribner's Sons City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-684-19576-3

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : oral tradition, folk art, Civil War, biography, African-American history

Summary : The book recounts both the story of Harriet Powers during the century of the Civil War and the story of her two "story quilts" that now reside in museums. The book is illustrated with photographs of Bible stories from the quilts with explanatory captions in Harriet's own words and with comparative photographs of contemporary quilts of African tales from Benin and Dahomey. A selected bibliography is included.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to use exerpts to illustrate slave life during the Civil War, the role of stories, descriptions of "jumping the broom" marriage ceremony, etc. The book could be used with Paul's Eight Hands Round on how quilts record history and tell stories.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator :

Title : **Skylark** Date : 1994

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-023328-1

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : family, prairie, homesteading, geography, farm life

Summary : This is the sequel to the award-winning Sarah, Plain and Tall. When a drought forces Sarah and the children to leave the farm, leaving Jacob behind, everyone wonders if they will ever be a family again.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be used by itself or as a companion to Sarah, Plain and Tall. Students might enjoy predicting what will happen next in their lives. The theme of leaving a place that is deeply familiar could also include books on immigration and change. Characters could be developed across the two books. Comparison/contrast possibilities abound: prairie vs. Maine, children's feelings vs. Sarah's feelings. Students could trace the train trip they took and figure the mileage. The drought might lead to study of other weather-related disasters. Since some of the story is told via Anna's diary, the book might lead to study of diaries or journals.

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **What You Know First** Date : 1995

Publisher : Joanna Cotler Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-024413-5

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, relocation, communities

Summary : A young girl does not want to leave the family farm that is being sold. She resolves her feelings realistically. The woodcut illustrations that look like old color-tinted photographs add veracity to the text.

Teaching Ideas : The story could be told from different points of view-her parents, baby brother, Uncle Bill. The book would also make a good introduction to a unit on family history. Students could bring old family snapshots to write about. This book has been used successfully as a read-aloud in workshops. It would pair well with other farm books, with Hamilton's Drylongso, or with Stanley's Children of the Dust Bowl.

Author : **Mann, E.** Illustrator : Witschonke, A.

Title : **The Brooklyn Bridge** Date : 1996

Publisher : Mikaya Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-9650493-0-2

Type : nonfiction, biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : 19th century, U.S. history, physics, engineering, New York City, bridges, problem solving, math, anatomy

Summary : This award winner tells the history of an unusual American family, the history of an important U.S. bridge, and the story of how that bridge was crafted and designed. It ends with a list of statistics and an index.

Teaching Ideas : This fabulous book uses clear, simple sentences and diagrams to explain complicated construction. Students may want to read the charts and illustrations in the context of an engineering or architechure theme. The human interest of father/son and husband/wife add a rich dimension not always present in an expository book. Students may want to follow it with research on other Roebling bridges. They could work out a scale model or make long paper tapes of some of the measurements. Cleveland students may want to study the bridges near the Flats, the WPA project bridges. They may be interested in learning what the cure for the bends was and anatomically what pressure does to the body.

Author : **Mariotti, M.** Illustrator : Marchiori, R. (photos)

Title : **Humages** Date : 1985

Publisher : Green Tiger Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-671-75233-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : easy reading

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : photography, wordless, humor

Summary : Like his previous book (Hanimals, also reviewed by the OLRC), this book features photos, this time of Mariotti's face and feet, disguised to look like other things.

Teaching Ideas : This book is fun just for looking/browsing. Talking about how the new images were created would be wonderful for ESL learners. Learners may also want to write descriptions of the photos. Ambitious groups may even wish to create their own "Humages." The book might also prompt conversation or writing about perceptions vs. reality, "masks," or images.

Author : **Mathis, S.** Illustrator :

Title : **Teacup Full of Roses** Date : 1972

Publisher : Puffin Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-032328-7 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban : Y
GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : family, relationships, drug addiction, urban life

Summary : Three brothers live with their mother, disabled father and aging aunt in Washington, D.C. during the Vietnam war. Paul, the oldest and his mother's favorite, returns home from another drug rehabilitation program just as Joe, the middle very responsible son prepares to graduate from high school and join the Navy. Joe plans to leave his savings to Davey, the youngest who is successful in school and on the basketball court. An event occurs that changes all of their lives.

Teaching Ideas : The setting of the 60's and 70's could be contrasted to today-slang, clothes, music, hair, street life. The book provides material for discussion and writing about problems that youth face in urban ghettos and for practicing violence prevention activities. Students could develop a matrix of the responses of the mother, father, and aunt to the three young men.

Author : **Mazer, A.**

Illustrator :

Title : **America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Persea Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-89255-190-9

Type : short stories

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a : Y

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban : Y

GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : short stories, cultural differences, family, immigration, the Great Depression

Summary : This is a collection of 14 short stories about people with many different cultural heritages and ethnic backgrounds.

Teaching Ideas : Many of these stories will provoke reminiscences and so may be used with most free response activities. "Raymond's Run" has a strongly drawn character (Squeaky), as does "Sixth Grade." "The Circuit" could be part of a text set about migrant workers or could be paired with "Business at Eleven" to focus on change. "The Loudest Voice" and "Hamadi" could be part of a "holidays" unit. Several stories center around aspects of family, too, or of understanding cultural differences. Another group of the stories addresses how adults interact with children and teachers ("The Wrong Lunch Line", "Sixth Grade", "White Umbrella") or strangers ("Thank You M'am", "Business at Eleven"). Several are set during the Great Depression and so could be added to the study of that era.

Author : **McCully, E.A.** Illustrator : McCully, E.A.

Title : **The Pirate Queen** Date : 1995

Publisher : G.P. Putnam's Sons City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22657-5

Type : historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : Elizabethan England, women heroes, ocean

Summary : This story, based on historical fact and colorful legend, chronicles the life of Grania O'Malley, an Irish woman who became a sea captain and pirate during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Teaching Ideas : This book might belong in text sets about Elizabethan England, the sea, or women heroes. Students may enjoy inspecting the illustrations. Journal writing or discussion could focus upon Grania's character, what life was like in Elizabethan England, women as leaders, or Grania as a rebel.

Author : **McGovern, A.** Illustrator : Powers, R.M.

Title : **Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman** Date : 1965

Publisher : Scholastic City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-44212-0 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American : Y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : 19th century, U.S. history, African-American history, Civil War, heroes, civil disobedience, war

Summary : This is a spellbinding yet simply written account of Harriet Tubman and how she led hundreds of slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Teaching Ideas : This book might belong with others about the Underground Railroad, about Tubman herself, about civil disobedience, etc. Students might enjoy finding out more about Tubman's life. Writing or discussion might center on speculations about why a person would do such extraordinary things. The issue of when it's acceptable to break the law might also be interesting. (Note: Teachers may want to point out the copyright and discuss the term "negro" in that light.)

Author : **McMillan, B.** Illustrator : McMillan, B.

Title : **The Weather Sky** Date : 1991

Publisher : Farrar Straus Giroux City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-374-38261-1

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science
Themes : weather, meteorology

Summary : The author uses labeled photographs, charts of weather fronts and graphs to discuss the relationship of weather to cloud formation.

Teaching Ideas : The book is an excellent reference book. Teachers could use in conjunction with weather maps on television and in the newspaper to keep a cloud-log. McCloskey's Time of Wonder, with its strong narrative, could be used with it.

Author : **Moore, E.** Illustrator : Low, W.

Title : **Good Morning, City** Date : 1995

Publisher : BridgeWater Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8167-3654-5

Type : easy reading

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : urban living, society, work, communities

Summary : While most people sleep, some go to work, machines clean streets, subways rumble underground, etc. Through simple text and colorful illustrations, this book depicts morning in the city.

Teaching Ideas : The text has a simple, child-like tone that teachers should consider before using it. The focus on the "little things" that make up the "big things" is interesting and may invite learners to use this book as a copy change for their own writing. The book would be a good "easy reading" addition to text sets on work or urban living (e.g., with Rylant's An Angel for Solomon Singer). Learners who live (or have lived) in cities will find the text and illustrations familiar.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Morpurgo, M.** Illustrator : Place, F.

Title : **The Wreck of the Zanzibar** Date : 1995

Publisher : Viking City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-670-86360-2

Type : diaries & journals
Rating : W
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : diary, communities, family relationships, survival

Summary : When Laura Perryman dies, her great-nephew Michael gets her diary. The diary reveals remarkable stories about a time when people lived off the bounty (and at the mercy) of the ocean. This story "of a family bound by respect for nature seamlessly blends the past with the present, giving us an affecting tale of timeless wisdom" (book jacket).

Teaching Ideas : Reading group members found this an engaging and endearing story. Students will find numerous response possibilities for either discussion or writing: Billy's need to roam, Granny Mae and Laura's relationship, how communities survive/help each other, multigenerational family dynamics and relationships, and gender issues. The book could also be used in a text set with other diaries/journals (e.g., Capturing Nature(Roop), I Columbus(Hamilton), Stranded at Plimoth(Bowen) or with other family stories (e.g., Pink and Say(Polacco), Her Stories(Hamilton), Having Their Say(Delany & Delany). Some geography ties are possible as well. Literary aspects, such as plot, characters, and setting, could provide focus for discussion, as could the technique of framing a story within a story.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Morris, A.** Illustrator : Heyman, K. (photos)

Title : **On the Go** Date : 1990

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-06336-5

Type : nonfiction, easy reading
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : transportation, geography, travel

Summary : A simple text and photographs from around the world tell how people move and carry things from place to place.

Teaching Ideas : The book offers many teaching opportunities for ESL, family literacy, and basic skills classes but would be too simplistic for GED. The book includes an index of the location and explanation of the photographs that could be used for map skills. Math skills could be incorporated by figuring the time and cost of various modes of transportation. The text and photographs provide excellent opportunities for parent-child reading aloud and discussion.

Author : **Morris, A.** Illustrator :

Title : **Shoes, Shoes, Shoes** Date : 1995

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-13666-4

Type : nonfiction, easy reading
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian : Y
African American : Y
Latino/a : Y
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : multinational, multicultural use of shoes, cultural diversity

Summary : The photographs and very simple text document the types and function of shoes throughout the world.

Teaching Ideas : Although the text is very easy, the photographs are very sophisticated which make it very appropriate for use in ESL, beginning ABLE, and family literacy programs. Students may want to take their own photos or find magazine pictures to make their own books about shoes or something else. Because the location of the photos is identified in the index, teachers could follow up the book with map work.

Author : **Morris, A.** Illustrator :

Title : **Weddings** Date : 1995

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-13273-1

Type : nonfiction, easy reading
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE :
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : customs and rituals, geography, cultural diversity, love, religion

Summary : The book explores weddings around the world through photographs and simple text. An index identifies the geographic location and the religious custom involved.

Teaching Ideas : Although Morris's books follow a formula, this book is fresh and inviting for adults with limited reading skills. Teachers could extend the book by developing a class research project on another area of ritual-birth, coming of age, death. The index provides excellent material for map skills.

Author : **Moser, B.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **Tucker Pfeffercorn** Date : 1994

Publisher : Little, Brown & Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-316-58542-4

Type : legends & tales

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural : Y

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : tales & legends, motherly love, the South (U.S.), rural life, regionalisms, communities

Summary : This retelling of Rumpelstiltskin is set in small town Southern USA. The dialogue and dialect are delightful, and the illustrations by one of America's finest artists also contributes to telling the tale.

Teaching Ideas : By comparing this tale to Rumplestiltskin, classes could analyze the genre of the fairy tale or of the short story. Students would have fun rewriting the dialect into that of their own communities. Some ABE teachers working in prisons have found the rewriting of fairy tales to be a powerful tool for self expression, and this book would provide a wonderful model. Students may also want to write journal entries reacting to Bessie Grace or to her plight.

Author : **Murphy, J.**

Illustrator :

Title : **The Great Fire**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Scholastic

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-47267-4

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : Chicago, U.S. history, 19th century, sociology

Summary : By weaving personal accounts from survivors together with carefully researched history, Jim Murphy constructs a riveting narrative that recreates the great Chicago fire with drama and immediacy. Authentic photos and drawings complement the text.

Teaching Ideas : The last chapter, which tells how some looked to blame (less fortunate) others, discusses spread of rumors, etc. is very interesting. Lots of discussion or response writing possibilities are here. Students interested in history or Chicago may want to read the whole book; teachers can also select excerpts for instructional use. Writing or discussion could focus on city services (then and now), people in disasters, or urban myths.

Author : **Myers, W. Dean** Illustrator :

Title : **Glorious Angels** Date : 1995

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-024822-X

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : family, world cultures, celebrations, photography, cultural diversity

Summary : The author has collected photographs of children and families from around the world to illustrate his prose-poem about children.

Teaching Ideas : In the introduction, the author relates how people responded to the photographs in Brown Angels by sending him family collections of photographs and student books of poetry written for family photographs. In addition to applying this idea, teachers could encourage discussion of the geographic location of photographs and explore the cultural connotations of exotic words such as "tabla" and "kola nuts". Students might write journal entries on how we celebrate children.

Author : **Neely, B.** Illustrator :

Title : **Blanche on the Lam** Date : 1992

Publisher : Penguin Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-017439-7 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : Y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : racial relations in contemporary south, mystery, social issues

Summary : A spunky African-American woman, who works as a housekeeper for a wealthy southern family with many secrets, must solve a murder in order to clear herself. Blanche relies on her own intelligence and an "old girl" network of domestics. The language is occasionally graphic or may offend readers. The interesting plot defies easy prediction.

Teaching Ideas : Because the plot contains many surprising turns, teachers could use a DR-TA strategy. The story contains many elements of race relations in the south that would lead to class discussions: Why don't her employers realize that she had never worked for them? What happens when there are "white" and "black" children of the same father? Because Blanche is such a fully developed character, teachers might want to use the book to launch a lesson on writing character essays. This may be a book that teachers encourage mystery buffs to read on their own.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Paul, A. Whitford** Illustrator : Winter, J.

Title : **Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet** Date : 1991

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-443464-8 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : easy reading

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural : Y

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : early American life, quilts, alphabet books, U.S. history

Summary : Each letter of this alphabet book introduces a quilt pattern which relates to an activity or person important in early American history.

Teaching Ideas : The book lends itself to a study of family history, especially in rural areas where families may still possess family quilts. Teachers could do paper or cloth quilting activities in the style of the Foxfire books in which writing, pictures and photographs are published as a group project. This book could be used in conjunction with Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt(Hopkinson) and Harriet Power's Bible Quilts(Perry). Individual sections could be exerpted for specific historic concepts such as the Underground Railroad or the home life of pioneers.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Perry, R.** Illustrator : Rizzoli Art Series

Title : **Harriet Powers's Bible Quilts** Date : 1994

Publisher : Rizzoli International Publications City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8478-1653-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : quilts, Bible, religion

Summary : This oversized paperback includes 24 photos of Powers's Bible quilts, a difficult introductory essay, and two pages of identifying information about the stories behind the quilts.

Teaching Ideas : A creative teacher or just the right class will find this book a gem. The teacher may want to excerpt from the opening essay and may want to read aloud about the quilts as students look at them. Students may want to borrow the book and study the Bible stories they depict. The book would fit into a unit on African American culture or with books illustrated by J. Lawrence or R. Bearden. These quilts could be compared with Amish quilts which are not pictorial (the teacher may ask, why?). Students may want to sew or cut out of paper a square to represent their family history. The text could fit into a unit on family history or oral history. Perhaps field trips or art projects could follow. Be sure to use this with Lyon's book Stitching Stars, a biography of Powers.

Author : **Place, F.** Illustrator : Place, F.

Title : **The Last Giants** Date : 1992

Publisher : David R. Godine, Publisher, Inc. City : Boston, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-87923-990-5

Type : fiction, legends & tales

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : British colonialism, tales/legends/myths, world history

Summary : During the days of sailing ships a European gentleman buys a mysterious tooth with a map on it, which takes him on a long adventure to a land of peaceful giants. When he writes a book about his travels, tragic events occur. The illustrations are reminiscent of the travel journals with watercolors kept by European ladies and gentlemen.

Teaching Ideas : Although the vocabulary and sea-faring jargon may require advance preparation, the book offers excellent teaching opportunities of the story as a parable of colonial expansion. The story encourages the study of the development of symbols, i.e., the magic skin of the giants. Students might also enjoy comparing the book with real travel journals from this period.

Author : **Polacco, P.**

Illustrator : Polacco, P.

Title : **My Ol' Man**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Philomel Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22822-5

Type : fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscences, oral history, family

Summary : Patricia Polacco once again uses her rich family background to tell the story of her father, a traveling salesman, and the magic, hope, and dreams he inspired. (Photos of the author and her family adorn the inside covers.)

Teaching Ideas : This book would work well as part of a text set about family stories or reminiscences. The "magic" of childhood is handled beautifully; this may provoke adult learners' thoughts/writing about their own childhoods. Similes and metaphors abound (e.g., "who knew the back roads of Michigan like most of us know our own faces in the mirror"..."he worked in words the way other artists work in oil or clay"), so this would also be a good choice for exploring the use or impact of figurative language. Author study using other of Polacco's titles might also work well. Thus classic may be especially fun for GED students to read and analyze.

Author : **Richter, C.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Light in the Forest** Date : 1953

Publisher : Fawcett Juniper City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-449-70437-8 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies, literature/arts

Themes : coming of age, cultural conflict, geography, settlers' lives, U.S. history, westward expansion

Summary : At 15, true son John Butler is returned to his biological white family by his Native American adoptive father. After he escapes with his friend and rescuer Half Arrow, he is caught between two families and two cultures.

Teaching Ideas : The book allows the reader to see the westward expansion through the point of view of a Native American towards nature, family, ownership etc. Teachers may want to do a teacher-directed reading by the whole class with discussions comparing and contrasting the two cultures and comparing them then and now. The setting in Pennsylvania and Ohio would lend itself to map work. This classic may be especially fun for GED students to read and analyze.

Author : **Robbins, K.** Illustrator :

Title : **Earth, The Elements** Date : 1995

Publisher : Henry Holt & Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8050-2294-5

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : evolution of earth, photography, earth science, environment, nature, science

Summary : The author illustrates different elements and places on earth with clear simple text and beautiful black and white photographs that have been colored by hand.

Teaching Ideas : As a reference work, pages could be exerpted on specific topics: igneous rock, sedementary rock, woodlands, grasslands, volcano. It could be used with Lasky's Surtsey in a unit on the evolution of the planet. In a totally different vein, it would make an interesting study on different types of photographic illustration: Seymour Simon uses a microscope in Star Walk; Children of the Dust Bowl(Stanley) and Kids at Work(Freedman) use archival material; The Block(Hughes) uses collage; Brown Angels(Myers) and Glorious Angels(Myers) use sepia tints. Cynthia Rylant uses Walker Evans's photographs in Something Permanent to stimulate poetry.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Rogasky, B. (compiled)** Illustrator : Hyman, T.S.

Title : **Winter Poems** Date : 1994

Publisher : Scholastic City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-42872-1

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : winter, seasons, snowstorms, weather, birds, poetry, nature, living creatures

Summary : This collection features 25 poems about different aspects of winter. Several very well known poets are included: Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Frost, Dickinson, Sandburg.

Teaching Ideas : Selections from this book would make good additions to study of weather, climate, seasons, etc. The imagery in many of the poems is very strong and may be helpful for focusing on figurative language in reading or writing. As with many poems, these would be good choices for rehearsal and oral presentation (a good way to build fluency). Most response activities will work well too.

Author : **Rohmann, E.** Illustrator : Rohmann, E.

Title : **Time Flies** Date : 1994

Publisher : Crown Publishers, Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-517-59598-2

Type : easy reading
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : wordless, living creatures

Summary : In this book time unravels and dinosaurs spring to life as a bird makes a journey back through the ages.

Teaching Ideas : Students might be interested in identifying the dinosaurs. The book might be a good supplement to the study of prehistory. The illustrations, which earned a Caldecott Honor Medal, deserve careful scrutiny. As with all wordless books, discussions of particular pages and the entire text will particularly benefit ESL learners.

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator : Gammell, S.

Title : **Waiting to Waltz** Date : 1984

Publisher : Macmillan Books for Young Readers City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-778000-7

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE :

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : Appalachia, small town living, reminiscences, poetry

Summary : Reminiscences of life in the small town of Beaver are told as poems from a young girl's point of view.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will want to select poems to introduce. The poems seem so effortless that adults may be encouraged to try a character sketch of someone from their past in poetic form. The book could also be used in a text set with short stories and novels by Cynthia Rylant.

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator : Catalanotto, P.

Title : **All I See** Date : 1988

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-05777-1

Type : fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : friendship, art, imagination

Summary : Shy Charlie admires the painter Gregory's work from afar. The child and adult become friends, and Gregory teaches Charlie about painting, senses, imagination, and friendship.

Teaching Ideas : This might be part of a text set about art or painters. Its illustrations are stunning. The intergenerational friendship might be an interesting focus as well. Reading Group members believe the book will work better in family literacy settings than in ABE or ESL.

Author : **San Souci, R.** Illustrator : Wyeth, N.C.

Title : **N.C. Wyeth's Pilgrims** Date : 1991

Publisher : Chronicle Books City : San Francisco, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-87701-806-5

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies, literature/arts

Themes : Pilgrims, immigration, early U.S. history, art

Summary : The author researched the first years of the Pilgrims at Plymouth to create a text to accompany murals painted by N.C. Wyeth. The text includes detailed descriptions, end papers from the Mayflower log, an author's note about his research, and a section about the artist.

Teaching Ideas : The book could be used in text sets on Pilgrims, immigration, and early U.S. history. Students could discuss the contrast of the realistic details of hardship in the text with the romantic depiction of the positive events at Plymouth. Students could research the history of other holidays such as Columbus Day or the 4th of July and write about and illustrate their findings.

Author : **San Souci, R.** Illustrator : Pinkney, B.

Title : **The Faithful Friend** Date : 1995

Publisher : Simon & Schuster City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-786131-7

Type : legends & tales

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : friendship, magic, Carribean, island life

Summary : This is a retelling of the traditional tale from the French West Indies in which two friends, Clement and Hippolyte, encounter love, zombies, danger, and adventure on the island of Martinique.

Teaching Ideas : This would be a good addition to a text set about island life or folk tales. Brian Pinkney's illustrations are stunning, so an illustrator study, using other recommended books that Pinkney has illustrated, would be interesting and beneficial. Students could compare and contrast illustrations from particular books, for example. They could, through observation and discussion, articulate Pinkney's artistic style. The author's note (on the last page) provides interesting information for the study of legends and tales.

Author : **Sanders, S.R.**

Illustrator : Cogancherry, H.

Title : **Warm as Wool**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Bradbury Press

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-778139-9

Type : fiction, historical fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : U.S. history, Ohio history, westward expansion, pioneers, settlers

Summary : Set in Ravenna, Ohio in 1803 and based on facts, this is a fictional account of the Ward family. Betsy Ward used a sockful of coins to buy sheep so that she could gather wool, spin cloth, and make clothes to keep her family warm.

Teaching Ideas : You may want to read "A Note From the Author" (last page) to students before they read the book. Learners in Northeast Ohio will be familiar with the modern-day setting for the book, which may spark some then-and-now discussion or writing. Primary sources, such as newspapers, records, or land deeds, might complement the story nicely. Students might also enjoy thinking, talking, and writing about the self-sufficiency required of pioneers (perhaps again as "then" and "now"). There are simple looms described in craft books that could be made so that a class could experience in miniature what labor went into making clothing. Finally, learners may want to mimic Sanders' way of "breathing life into" history by creating narratives based on other historical events.

Author : **Sandler, M.** Illustrator :

Title : **Civil War** Date : 1996

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-026024-6

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : war, Civil War, photogrpahy, U.S. history

Summary : Illustrations include photographs, posters, and paintings from the archives at the Library of Congress. Quotes from speeches and letters are sprinkled throughout. This book presents information about battles and soldiers' lives as well as the impact of the war on common people.

Teaching Ideas : This easy-to-read and informational book would make a wonderful centerpiece to Civil War study, perhaps paired with Fleishman's Bull Run or biographies of Frederick Douglas or John Brown. Lots of inquiry projects about particular aspects of the war might follow. Map work can focus on locating battles or tracing Sherman's march to the sea. Students can compare North and South and summarize information statistically, e. g. through proportions or percentages.

Author : **Sandler, M.W.** Illustrator :

Title : **Inventors** Date : 1996

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-024923-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science, social studies
Themes : U.S. history, science, photography, inventions, discoveries

Summary : This book shows the evolution of various inventions, using photoggraphs and illustrations from the Library of Congress. It is suitable as a reference book for students and teachers and will serve as a supplement to various units of study.

Teaching Ideas : The photos and engravings make this a fascinating reference, and teachers will want to excerpt pages that fit into units such as war or transportation. Teachers should note that the sentence structure is complex and may need some unpacking for students. Discussion might focus on the impact of certain inventions on life, e.g., impact on family? economy? politics? environment? NE Ohio teachers may want to combine this with a visit to Inventure Place. All teachers will want to use excerpts when leading units on various inventors, i.e. Wright Brothers, Henry Ford.

Author : **Sara** Illustrator : Sara

Title : **The Rabbit, the Fox, and the Wolf** Date : 1990

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-05953-7

Type : easy reading

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : storytelling, facing fears, collage art, wordless

Summary : In this wordless book, the three creatures of the title confront each other with an unexpected conclusion.

Teaching Ideas : Emergent readers could dictate a story to go with the pictures and more advanced students could write dialogues for the animals who appear to be talking. The book could be used with other books of animal fables such as Aesop or Brer Rabbit or African tales to investigate the form and then create a fable. Students might enjoy studying and experimenting with collage.

Author : **Schroeder, A.** Illustrator : Fuchs, B.

Title : **Carolina Shout** Date : 1995

Publisher : Dial Books for Young Readers City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1676-1

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :
Themes : oral traditions ("shouts"), history

Summary : A young girl wanders the streets of Charleston from sun up to sun set capturing the vendors calls and the sounds of the street. The book begs to be read aloud.

Teaching Ideas : The author's note at the end of the book gives other sources of "shouts" including Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, some of which could be played in class. Students could expand the search to jump rope rhymes, dozens, slavery spirituals with coded lyrics, and other forms from the oral tradition. As an introduction to poetry, a class might want to go outside to listen to sounds, develop a beat for one, and then create lyrics for the beat.

Author : **Shange, N.** Illustrator : Bearden, R.

Title : **I Live in Music** Date : 1978

Publisher : Stewart, Tabori & Chang City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-55670-372-4

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American : Y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : music, art, poetry, African American life

Summary : Each line of Shange's poem is placed with one of Romare Bearden's paintings. The book ends with the complete poem, and with short biographies of Shange and Bearden.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to examine Shange's similes and metaphors. They may want to read this as a class while jazz music plays a background. They may want to compare to or read with Angelou's poem (and book) Life Doesn't Frighten Me.

Author : **Siegen-Smith, N. (compiled by)** Illustrator :

Title : **Welcome to the World** Date : 1996

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-36006-7

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian : Y
African American : Y
Latino/a : Y
ESL : Y
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts

Themes : birth, life, mothers and infants, fathers and babies, family

Summary : This poetry book includes stunning photos-poems from all over the world, from a Seminole poem written in the U.S. to poetry from Southeast Asia. It ends with two pages of information on birthing traditions.

Teaching Ideas : This book is one that many parents will want to read and peruse. Perhaps students will want to bring in their own photos and write their own poems, using these poems and photos as models. ESL students may want to ignore the texts and write their own poems or speak about the photos. Teachers may want to develop the cross cultural aspects by looking at childrearing traditions.

Author : **Simon, S.** Illustrator :

Title : **Star Walk** Date : 1995

Publisher : Morrow Junior Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-11887-9

Type : poetry

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE :

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science, literature/arts

Themes : astronomy, photography, famous poets, science

Summary : Simon explains in the introduction that the exerpts of famous poems selected to accompany the colorful telescopic photographs of planets, stars, and meteors do not "illustrate" but provide "a different way of looking at the same thing." Captions of the photographs mention aspects of photography as well as the subject.

Teaching Ideas : Exerpted selections would make excellent read alouds. The book could be used in a unit on the solar system or photography. Students could write their own poem as a response to one of the paragraphs or a more recent newspaper photo, i.e. the Mars landing.

Author : **Sis, P.** Illustrator : Sis, P.

Title : **Starry Messenger** Date : 1996

Publisher : Farrar Straus Giroux City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-374-37191-1

Type : nonfiction, biography

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : biography, Middle Ages to Renaissance, Galileo, astronomy, world history, discoveries, science, physics

Summary : The simply told story of Galileo's life and "house arrest" for his work in physics and astronomy is enriched with historic maps, journal entries and lavish illustrations.

Teaching Ideas : The illustrations provide material to extend the book beyond the scientific accomplishments and elements of biography i.e., names and dates of other philosopher-scientists such as Aristotle, the similar dates of Shakespeare's life, antique maps, Cosimo de Medici, the triptych form in Renaissance art, walled cities etc. Teachers might want to encourage journal writing on the topic of intellectual persecution today. Another interesting topic might be a discussion about how Sis developed the idea of the title. The book could be paired with Kramer's Theodoric's Rainbow and Stanley's Leonardo Da Vinci to explore the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Stanley, D.** Illustrator : Stanley, D.

Title : **Leonardo Da Vinci** Date : 1996

Publisher : Morrow Junior Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-10437-1

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature/arts, social studies

Themes : genius, art, science, biography, Renaissance, world history

Summary : This biography of Da Vinci's life has beautiful illustrations in various Renaissance styles and a pronunciation guide, a forward about the historical period, and a postscript that demonstrates the vulnerability of works of art.

Teaching Ideas : In using the book as a biography, students could develop a timeline of historical and personal events with discussion about what key events to choose. Teachers may want to encourage debate around arts funding today. What groups are providing funding? What power do funders have on the content of art? Should there be public funding? Paperback copies of Leonardo's notebooks might be available at public libraries. His sketches and journal entries about flight could be used with the text set on airplanes/flight.

EST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Stanley, J.** Illustrator : photographs

Title : **Children of the Dust Bowl** Date : 1992

Publisher : Crown Publishers, Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-517-88094-6 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : Great Depression, migration, migrant life, community change, whole language learning, American history, work

Summary : The book recounts the migration of the "Okies" during the Great Depression to the camps in California. School Superintendent Leo Hart began the Weedpatch School where children of the migrants escaped the ostracism of the locals in a model learn-by-doing environment. These camps were the basis for John Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath. The author includes a foreward about the links to Steinbeck's book and a bibliography of archival sources.

Teaching Ideas : Using the book in conjunction with Grapes of Wrath would provide maps, photographs, and background information. MacLachlan's What You Know First would provide a companion text for less advanced readers. The section on the creation of Weedpatch School could be exerpted for a unit on how we learn. Since the Great Depression is still remembered by older members of families, students could use the book and its use of archival materials as a model to write about how the Depression affected their families.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Swanson, D.** Illustrator :

Title : **Safari Beneath the Sea** Date : 1994

Publisher : Sierra Club Books for Children City : San Francisco, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-87156-415-7

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : Y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : Y
ABE : Y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : oceanography, biology, ecology, science, ocean

Summary : Chapters entitled "Far Out Fish" and "Mind-Boggling Mammals" etc. are illustrated by colorful photographs of life in and around the sea. Additional facts are included in boxes and in bold faced and bulleted sections throughout the text. A useful index gives the pages of specific creatures.

Teaching Ideas : Since the text sets up a contrast between land and sea, teachers may want to refer to other books in the nature text set to talk about life on land, especially Kitchen's And So They Build and When Hunger Calls. Sections on specific sea creatures could be exerpted easily.

Author : **Thomas, R.E.** Illustrator : Kubinyi, L.

Title : **Come Go With Me: Old-timer Stories from the Southern Mountains** Date : 1994

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-374-37089-3

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : Y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : oral history, Appalachia, reminiscences

Summary : The author recorded these oral histories of "Southern Mountain" old folks over a twenty-five year period in order to preserve aspects of community that were disappearing.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to exerpt individual histories for use with other books such as those from Wiggington's Foxfire series. Teachers may want to read the exerpts aloud. They would be good models for a unit on family and community stories and may inspire students to write their own family stories.

Author : **Wheatley, N. & Rawlins, D.** Illustrator : Rawlins, D.

Title : **My Place** Date : 1987

Publisher : Kane/Miller Book Publishers City : Brooklyn, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-916291-54-5 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : Y

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : social studies

Themes : history, communities, geography, environment, world history

Summary : This award winning Australian picture book shows life in one specific spot in Australia, while moving backward in time (two pages for each depiction). It begins in 1988 with a child describing her community and her pet, and each subsequent set of pages moves back by a decade, until 1788. The maps are charming, and a glossary concludes the book.

Teaching Ideas : Children are the protagonists of each of these vignettes, and this could put off some adult readers. But the strengths of the book make it very worthwhile for ABE classrooms. Students may want to trace or identify technological changes through the years on several of the illustrations. Classes may want to create a time line and change the progressions from the opposite direction (past to present). This book would tie neatly to oral history projects, i.e. the history of the community, of a neighborhood, combined with newspaper articles etc. Teachers may want to use this with other community and change books, such as Levine's Pearl Moscowitz or Dragonwagon's Home Place.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Author : **Yerxa, L** Illustrator : Yerxa, L.

Title : **Last Leaf First Snowflake to Fall** Date : 1993

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-08674-7

Type : fiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : Y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : Y

ABE : Y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : seasons, storytelling, collage, Native American, father/son experience, weather, family

Summary : Part creation myth, part father/son initiation story, the book beautifully depicts a journey through the woods as the scene changes from fall to winter.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read this aloud since the text has a poetic quality. Reading Group reviewers have suggested using it with a variety of books to explore different themes: Surtsey(Laskey) for creation myths; Into the Deep Forest(Murphy) for a glimpse of nature as it used to be; Time of Wonder(McCloskey) and Seymour Simon's photographic books to learn more about the seasons; and Smoky Night(Bunting); The Rabbit, the Fox, and the Wolf(Sara); and I Live in Music(Shange) for an examination of collage.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE